Negro and Radicalism — 1938

TO AMERICAN NEGROES

By Hamilton Fish, New York Congressman

On this May day, let me warn the American Negroes not to compromise with communism, fascism, or nazi-ism. There is no room in free America for any of these foreign forms of dictatorships or autocracies. If these alien Fascists, Nazis, or Communists do not like our country, its laws, or its flag all they have to do is to go back to their native lands and give their jobs to loyal American citizens now walking the streets looking for employment.

The Constitution of the United States is the civil bible of America, and protects the rights and liberties of the minorities, racial and religious. The colored people have more at stake than any other group in upholding and defending the Constitution from the attacks of those foreign termites who would undermine and destroy the Constitution in order to set up a dictatorial form of government and leave the colored citizens, like the Jews in Germany, to the mercy of some unfriendly dictator.

In conclusion, if European nations must arm to the teeth under ruthless dictators and go to war, it is their war and not ours. We are ready to spend millions for defense but not one dollar to send American soldiers to foreign lands to fight other people's battles. It would be the height of folly for the United States to lend any more money to defaulting European nations or to continue to be the Santa Claus of the world. The colored soldiers of America do not intend to fight any more wars in Europe or elsewhere to make the world safe for democracy until democracy has been made safe in America for them.

Albany, Ga., Herald
July 18, 1938

Negro Bureau Hits Communism

"Communism is dangerous and destructive to American principle and citizenship," according to the doctrines of the Modern Educational and Religious Bureau, located in Washington, D. C., with whom the Rev. Joseph B. Bonner Negro worker, is connected. He is located in Albany at 1315 North Jackson Street, and at various times preaches in the local Negro churches and Sunday schools.

The bureau, says Bonner, goes further in saying that "Communism is against the Christian religion."

The bureau was organized thirty years ago and stresses the following principles:

"The South is the natural home of the Negro; the Southern white man is the Negro's friend; that we (the Negroes) need to know and to appreciate this fact; that the white man understands the Negro from the fact that he has spent 265 years with them in the South and this period has undoubtedly created instinctive friendship."

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
July 23, 1938

Valdosta and Lowndes County Negroes Organize to Banish Reds From Ranks

A drive by southern negroes to eliminate conscription from their ranks into the Communist Party was brought into Valdosta this week with the organization of another chapter of the American Loyalty League for Suppression of Communism Among Negroes.

A series of meetings are scheduled among the various negro churches in Valdosta and Lowndes county, led by Rev. J. S. Brookens, Thomasville negro minister.

The league was organized in Mobile, Ala., last year and chapters have appeared in most of the larger southern cities. Negroes in Macon, Columbus, Savannah, Thomasville and Waycross have already banded together. Valdosta will be the sixth Georgia city to support a chapter.

Two meetings have already been held here and another is scheduled for Tuesday night. After the Valdosta organization has been completed the group will meet among the rural churches of this county.

"Our aim," Brookens said, "is to go among the churches and expose the poisonous doctrine of Communism which seeks to break down the good-will and friendship between the white Southerner and the negro by engendering hatred and strife.

The colored preacher says that members of his race are being cautioned that "Americanism is the only 'ism' the Georgia negro can use, for it has made us what we are."

The league was organized after members of the Communist Party in the United States entered the south in large numbers in an attempt to enroll its colored population. In a further effort to gain support they nominated a negro to run for vice president of the United States in the 1936 presidential election.

The league's organizer is bitterly opposed to members of his race alligning with any group that tends to make them dissatisfied with their life. He contends that the negro's progress has been slow but remarkable since the great, great ancestors of practically every negro in the south lived in a savage state two centuries ago.

"Communism says there is no God," he claimed, "and that the church is a vehicle of exploitation through which southern employers exploit negro mass labor.

"The American Loyalty League proves by facts and figures that God and Americanism have developed the negro into what he is today. And that his most valuable possession is the friendship of the white people."

Morganton, N. C., News-Herald
July 26, 1938

SAYS COMMUNISM IS NEGRO'S FOE

Speakers Tell Mass Meeting Interracial Harmony Would Be Destroyed.

A mass meeting for negroes at Slade's Chapel A.M.E. Zion church Friday night climaxed the local campaign against communism, with Rev. J. Thomas Newby acting as master of ceremonies.

Rev. D G. Garland, president of the American Loyalty League which is conducting a series of public meetings in the county to expose communism, spoke at length, setting forth the aims and purposes of the league. He said communism has its greatest friends in the sense of false security that deceives Americans by the idea that "it can't happen here," such an idea made it possible for a handful of Reds as compared to the total Russian population to seize the Russian government, he said, adding that even today after more than ten years of unrestrained power the communists number less than three million of the 160,000 Russians.

The communists are actively scattering their literature wherever possible. That "it will happen here" unless the borders of Americanism are zealously defended was emphasized. The American Loyalty League is no "lightning bug" affair but a permanent organization to help guard the principles of the nation that has made the American negro and mainly the Southern negro what he is today.

Rev. Garland declared that the Southern white man is the negro's best friend, that a white friend would go to a self-respecting, law-abiding negro's rescue at any time, night or day. He pointed out "these thousands of jobs in every type of industry and domestic service, these splendid schools, these fine churches which the white man's money had fostered and supported and the Georgia State Industrial college, one of the finest in the South, are undeniable proofs that the Southern white man is the negro's best friend."

Communism, he said, will break up this fine feeling of inter-racial friendship, and "will shatter that splendid co-operation between the race that has meant so much to the Southern negroes, by creating a spirit of distrust and strife in the Negro towards his best friends."

In closing the speaker read facts and figures from pamphlets supplied by the American Legion showing how widespread communistic publications circulating through the south among negroes coming here from New York and Birmingham, Ala., communistic clearing points for their nefarious doctrines.

Rev. W. A. Newell, pastor of the First Methodist church, was presented to the audience, and in his talk explained the various forms of slavery and then pointed out that the worst of all forms was that of communism. The Negro need not heed any of those agitators. The best white people of the south will do all they can to better the negro's condition.

Asheville, N. C., Times
August 24, 1938

NEGROES WILL CONDUCT DRIVE ON COMMUNISM

Mass Meeting To Be Held On Friday Night At Hopkins Chapel.

A mass meeting of negroes will be held at Hopkins chapel, A. M. E.

Zion church, Friday night inaugurating a campaign in this area against the spread of communism among members of that race. White and negro speakers will appear on the program.

The meeting is designed for negro people and others who are interested in combatting that doctrine through many of its affiliated organizations. The Rev. R. L. Jones is pastor of the church where the mass meeting will be held.

The drive is being conducted under the auspices of the American Loyalty league. Besides opposition to communism, some of its objectives are exposing the "false teachings" of that group and pointing out some of its "detrimental" features.

It seeks to break down the harmonious relations that exist between whites and blacks in the South, its opponents say, and falsely denies that the white people of the South are southern negroes' best friends."

The league is a patriotic, religious and educational organization and is strictly non-political, it was explained. Its ideals are listed as a desire to preserve good will between the races and to defend the customs of the American negro which have brought him to his present position.

The Rev. D. G. Garland is president of the local organization, and the Rev. J. S. Brookens, secretary.

A special musical program will include jubilee songs. Special seats will be reserved for white persons. Other meetings will be held, for which speakers will be announced later.

Asheville, N. C. Citizen
August 27, 1938

COMMUNISM IS HIT AT NEGRO MEETING HERE

White Speakers Appear On Program; Praise U. S. Government

Communism was assailed by several negro and white speakers at a meeting in the Hopkins Chapel negro church last night, under auspices of the American Loyalty league.

The Rev. R. L. Jones, pastor of the church, presided. He introduced the Rev. D. G. Garland, a negro of Mobile, Ala., who is a representative of the league.

George Pennell, Asheville attorney, the Rev. Charles B. Chapin, president of the Ministerial Association of Asheville and Buncombe county, and Father Joseph M. McGrath, pastor of St. Anthony's chapel were the white speakers. Dr. L. O. Miller and Dr. Herbert White also spoke.

Cite Friendly Relations

The speakers listed various reasons why they considered Communism to be bad, stressed the friendly relations existing between the races of the South, and expressed the hope that Communism would not spread to this region as it has in some parts of the country. The theme of the talks centered around prevention of Communism, and none expressed the opinion that the movement had gained any headway here.

Pointing out that religion and the attitude of the Southern white man were chiefly responsible for the present position of the negro, speakers of both races said that the negro was satisfied with conditions and was better off in the South than in the North. Negro workers and white workers face much the same problems and both stand to gain most through cooperation, the speakers said.

Mr. Pennell recounted a story concerning his grandfather who lost an arm fighting for the Confederate army in the Civil War. The veteran of the conflict chided a small boy for speaking of a negro in a derogatory manner, Mr. Pennell said.

Literature Distributed

The attorney said that headquarters of the Communist party of the state are located in Charlotte and that much literature is being sent out from there. He cited respect for God and government as being the most needed attitudes of today.

Mr. Chapin said that the United States possessed the best democracy in the world. Calling attention to the rumblings of war over the earth, he asserted a belief in the right of all men to freedom of speech and press.

Saying that he had worked with negroes through the Catholic school here for two years, Father McGrath said he believed negroes capable of thinking and choosing for themselves between present systems and various "isms" that may be offered them.

Approximately 40 people were present.

AMBULANCE FUND REPORT IS MADE BY THYRA EDWARDS

Names Leaders Who Gave Aid to Cause of Spanish Loyalists

Chicago, Oct. 27 (ANP)—At a dinner in Poro college last Thursday, Thyra J. Edwards tendered to the Negro Ambulance fund and the Salaria Kee Ambulance fund a report of the recent tour of the Negro People's ambulance on behalf of Republican Spain. The ambulance, started by a gift of $250 from Paul Robeson, was accompanied by Thyra Edwards and Salaria Kee on its tour of 21 cities.

The ambulance group attended the conventions of the Association of Colored Graduate Nurses, the National Medical Association, the Elks and the National Baptist Convention. The Elks pledged $500 and individual nurses contributed more than $50. The group was warmly received by the National Baptist Convention, but, according to the report, they failed to win the support of the National Medical association, and received only $4.50 from the 900 physicians registered there. In direct contrast to this 15 children at the Weaver orphanage near Hampton insisted upon contributing $2.25.

Committees to aid Spain were organized in 12 of the 21 cities visited. Each of these pledged $50 in cash and a considerable amount of goods. Pledges have been paid by the following cities: Covington, Ky.; Bishop M. W. Clair, chairman; Chester, Pa., Mrs. Elenor Selah, chairman; Columbus, Ohio, Asst. States' Atty. Elsie Austin, chairman; Indianapolis, Rev. Robert Moss, chairman, and St. Louis, Mo., Mabel Bird Curtis, chairman.

The tour terminated at New York. The ambulance will sail on the American relief ship, Eric Reed, Oct. 30. Dean Wm. Pickens of the N. A. A. C. P., has sent out a call, urging the Negro people to contribute $500 toward the remaining 2,000 tons of cargo needed to fill the relief ship.

Following Miss Edward's report and its adoption by the body, Commandant Oscar Hunter, recently returned from Spain where he has been fighting, spoke on the desperate need of bread among the civil population of Spain. "Bread," he said, "is now the determining factor in the struggle for democratic freedom."

The two ambulance fund committees voluntarily dissolved and a Negro people's committee to aid Spanish democracy was formed to continue with the broader program of general relief for Spanish children. The Rev. Richard Davis, pastor of Indiana Avenue Christian church is acting chairman.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
October 20, 1938

COMMUNIST PROBE IS SCHEDULED IN SOUTH

Radicals Are Alleged To Be Active Among Negroes Here

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Chairman Dies (D., Tex.), of the House committee on un-American activities, said Wednesday night he planned to appoint a subcommittee to investigate Communistic activities among Negroes in the South.

The subcommittee would be headed he said by Representative Starnes (D. Ala.), and would visit Atlanta, Birmingham and perhaps one other Southern city. Other members of the subcommittee have not been appointed.

Representative Joe Starnes in Guntersville, Ala., said Wednesday night he had not known he would be named to head a congressional subcommittee to investigate Communistic activities among Southern Negroes.

Dies said the committee had information that a number of Communists were working among Negroes in Georgia, Alabama and other Southern states. He added that the committee also had Communist publications dealing with their plans for activities among the Negroes.

Ralph Knox, a deposed official of the United Automobile Workers, testified Wednesday that Communists and revolutionary Socialists "absolutely dominate" that union.

Albany, Ga., Herald
October 20, 1938

Negroes to Have Mass Meeting

A city-wide mass meeting for Negroes will be held tonight at 8 o'clock in Bethel A. M. E. church, the Rev. A. R. Cooper, pastor, announced. Dr. J. W. Holley, president of the Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, and the Rev. J. S. Brookens, secretary of the American Loyalty League for the suppression of Communism, will deliver addresses.

"All the Negro ministers of Albany and their congregations are asked to attend this meeting," Brookens said. "The object of the meeting is to show the widespread attacks Communism is making on the Negro church, Christian moral standards, principles of democracy and ideals of Americanism which have made America the garden spot of the earth. This is a city-wide call of the Christian forces to meet the enemy who would destroy our churches and wreck our homes."

The white people are cordially invited to attend.

The Bethel church choir will sing.

Negro and Radicalism—1938

Characterized As "Un-Godly" Practices

Committee Named Draft Resolutions Of Protest

Characterizing the appearance of members of the Communist Party as speakers in local churches and other "ungodly" practices as "a menace to our churches," members of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Vicinity at their weekly meeting on Monday expressed their disapproval, and took steps to remedy the situation.

The recent appearance at a local church of a self-styled "prophet" who employed sensational pulpit methods, together with a mass meeting on Sunday, March 13 at Second Calvary Baptist Church at which the principal speaker was Ben Davis, Jr., associate editor of the Daily Worker, Communist organ, drew pointed remarks from members of the conference.

Acting on a motion made by the Rev. W. L. Hamilton, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, a committee was named to "draft resolutions of protest to let the world know that we as ministers are opposed to such practices."

The Rev. G. W. Watkins, president of the conference, named to the committee, the Revs. Hamilton, A. S. Hoard, and C. D. Ellis. The group is expected to make its report at the meeting on Monday.

NO COMMUNIST

Although Dr. C. P. Madison, pastor of Second Calvary, was not mentioned by name, he arose to defend himself in declining to become a member of the committee when his name was proposed.

"I am no communist, and I did not allow Mr. Davis to speak from my pulpit because he was a member of the Communist Party," Dr. Madison told the conference.

"In my opinion there was nothing in his speech that would hurt anyone. He only told us what Negroes in this country should do to gained what is rightfully theirs, and more members of this conference should have heard it.

"I think we ought to hear more of what the other man has to say occasionally, and get more of his viewpoint," the Second Calvary pastor said.

The Rev. A. S. Hoard, pastor of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Portsmouth, spoke as the order of the day from the subject, "Sermon Introductions," in which he pointed out that a good introduction "should be worthy of engaging the attention of intelligent listeners and should fit the subject of the sermon."

FIRST IN SERIES

The discourse was the first in a series of three dealing with sermon building. The Rev. D. Y. Campbell, pastor of the New Calvary Baptist Church, will speak on Monday, April 4 rfom the subject, "Sermon Illustrations." On the following Monday, the Rev. J. W. Shaffer will speak using as his subject, "Sermon Conclusions."

Rev. Mr. Hoard urged simplicity and naturalness in sermon introductions, asserting that "nothing is so impressive as simplicity. In preaching there should be a good introduction or none at all. Endeavor to be natural in all your efforts to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. S. L. Johnson, nationally known evangelist and authority on church financing, was introduced as a visitor.

Birmingham, Ala. News
February 8, 1938

DRIVE TO COMBAT COMMUNISM SET

Series Of Mass Meetings To Be Opened At St. Luke African Church

The injuries communism will bring to Southern Negroes if practiced by them will be told in sermons and lectures tonight when the American Loyalty League for the suppression of communism among Negroes begins a series of mass meeting at the St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church.

An Alabama organization, founded in Mobile, the league has worked in Montgomery, Selma, Anniston, Florence, Dothan, Mobile, Pensacola, Fla.; Gulfoprt, Miss., and New Orleans. The Chambers of Commerce of all these cities have supported the organization and presented it will letters of approval.

The Rev. D. G. Garland, president, and the Rev. J. S. Brookens, secretary of the league, will speak at the mass meetings, to be held all this week.

"Communism has done nothing for the Southern Negro but make him promises," is the belief held by the American Loyalty League.

Following the meetings at the St. Luke Church, in North Birmingham, mass meetings will be held next week in Smithfield and other sections of the city. Several prominent white ministers and civic leaders will take part on the programs, it was announced.

The public is invited to attend the gatherings where songs by the St. Luke's choir will also be featured.

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer Sun
May 12, 1938

NEGROES WILL COMBAT REDS

Mass Meeting Against Spread Of Communism Is Scheduled Friday Night

Dr. E. J. Odom, pastor of the St. James A. M. E. church on Sixth avenue has announced that a mass meeting will be held there at 8 o'clock Friday night for negroes and others interested in combatting the teachings and spread of communism and its precepts through many of its affiliated organizations.

The mass meeting is being conducted under the auspices of the American Loyalty League, which has for its purpose the supression of communism among negroes; to expose the false and harmful teachings of communism and show how detrimental such teachings are to southern negroes, particularly as communism seeks to break down the spirit of good will and cooperation in the south between the two races by falsely denying the truth that the south is the southern negro's best friend, and denying God. The officers of the league are Rev. D. G. Garlan, president, and Rev. J. S. Brookens, secretary.

The American Loyalty League for the suppression of communism is a patriotic and educational organization to preserve the existing good will and friendship among the races and to defend the ideals of Americanism that have made the negro what he is today.

There will be good jubilee singing and special seats will be reserved for our white friends. The various speakers will be named later.

Macon, Ga., News
June 3, 1938

Negroes Oppose Communist Group

Loyalty League to Hold Meeting Here on Monday

The Rev. D. G. Garland, president of the American Loyalty League, Negro organzation, announced that an anti-Communistic mass meeting would be held at Turner's Tabernacle at 8 p.m. Monday.

Formation of a Macon chapter of the organization which began two years ago in Mobile, Ala., was planned.

Garland and the Rev. J. S. Brookins, both of Mobile, will conduct the meeting.

"Communism is undermining all attempts at better race relationship," Garland said. "Negroes think they get injustice now, but they haven't seen injustice till they get Communism."

The organization was described as patriotic and educational to preserve the existing good will between races and defend the ideals of Americanism.

Savannah, Ga., News
June 29, 1938

NEGROES HERE TO FIGHT COMMUNISM

MASS MEET TOMORROW

Loyalty League at St. Phillip's A. M. E. Church

A mass meeting for negroes and others interested in combating the spread of Communism and its doctrines through many of its affiliated organizations will be held tomorrow night, at 8 o'clock at St. Phillip's A. M. E. Church, Charles and West Broad streets, it was announced yesterday by Rev. Shermon R. Dinkins, pastor.

The mass meeting is being conducted under the auspices of the American Loyalty League, which has for its purpose the suppression of Communism among negroes; to expose the teachings of Communism and show how detrimental such teachings are to Southern negroes. "Particularly," said Rev. Dinkins, "as Communism seeks to break down the spirit of good will and co-operation in the South between the two races, by denying the truth that the white South is the Southern negroes' best friend, and also denying God." The officers of the league are Rev. D. G. Garland, president, and Rev. J. S. Brookins, secretary.

The American Loyalty League for the suppression of Communism is a patriotic and educational organization to preserve the existing good will among the races and to defend the ideals of Americanism that have made the negro what he is today.

There will be good jubilee singing and special seats will be served for white friends.

Ocala, Fla., Evening Star
July 9, 1938

Colored Veterans Condemn Communism

St. Petersburg, July 9—(AP)—Closing their second annual convention here, members of the Florida department of the colored World War veterans, yesterday adopted a resolution expressing condemnation of communism and other un-American influences in the United States.

The action followed an address by William T. Comer, state American Legion commander, who asked the negro veterans' cooperation in ridding the nation of un-American influences.

Morganton, N. C., News-Herald
August 30, 1938

Religion

IN THE HERE AND NOW

By REV. NORVIN C. DUNCAN

In some news items, I have noted, recently, a movement to educate the Negroes in regard to the dangers of Communism. I have read of several speeches being made, both by white and colored speakers. It is very well to combat efforts made to win converts to Communism among the Negroes. The Negro will not find himself at home in Communism; he is too deeply and sincerely religious to accept a philosophy of life which denies all of his most cherished beliefs. There is small likelihood of the Negro obtaining his genuine ambitions under a Communistic regime. I believe most sincerely that Communism has little to offer to the American Negro; it will deny him much.

Yet I doubt the usefulness of a movement which devotes itself to talk. The warnings may be wise, and the instruction faithfully and truly presented; yet they will accomplish little unless some deeper interpretations are given in some positive exhibitions of sympathetic and neighborly opportunities for the Negro to realize more fully his American citizenship. Being somewhat older than I used to be, and having tried with some sincerity, if not with much evidence of success, to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, I can not escape the conviction, that while we are in the south do feel very friendly towards the Negro, we have deceived ourselves in some of our racial attitudes. It will not injure us, and it will bring us closer to the Christ mind if we give some further recognition to the humanity of the colored man. He has no more use for what has been called social equality than the white man has; but he does desire greater opportunities to work out his destiny, and to maintain his own racial purity.

The conduct of the Negro, in his loyalty to master during the war between the states, manifested a loyalty which will be forever to his credit; and I believe that greater opportunity should be given to the American Negro to show that loyalty through his citizenship. Give him that and we need fear his attachment to Communism. He will become a bulwark against it.

The Negro will live for his country, and he will fight for his country. He will fight for his people, white, as well as black; but we should face the facts honestly—he must have some country of which he feels himself a part, before he has something definite to which he can give his loyalty—and I repeat, that no people can show a finer quality of loyalty than the American Negro.

CLAUDE M'KAY, AUTHOR, DECRIES INROADS MADE BY COMMUNISTS

Claude McKay, noted author, views with alarm the possibility of the Communist Party gaining control of the Negro workers. He writes below in reply to an article that appeared in the New Leader in July. (Editor's note).

By CLAUDE McKAY

My attention has just been called to an article on the Federal Writers' Project in the issue of The New Leader of July 23, in which it was stated that I have fought against Communist domination of the Negroes on work relief. It would be more correct to say that I have resented Communist persecution of non-Communist workers.

To fight Communist domination I would have to fight the Union of the unemployed and WPA workers and I stand by the principle of unionism. It must be admitted that more than any other group the Communists should be credited with the effective organizing of the unemployed and relief workers.

From the Administration they won the right of Federal relief workers to organize and it is inevitable that the Communists will be politically powerful in the unions they control just as, for example, the Socialists formerly dominated the needle trades unions.

I am opposed to the Communists, not like the Trotskyites and other opposition Communists, on account of their opportunist interpretation of Marxian ideas, but because I do not accept the basic political ideology of Communism.

(1) I reject absolutely the idea of government by dictatorship, which is the pillar of political Communism.

(2) I am intellectually against the Jesuitical tactics of the Communists: (a) their professed conversion to the principles of Democracy which is obviously fake, since they defend the undemocratic regime in Russia and loudly laud its bloodiest acts; (b) their skunking behind the smoke screen of Peoples' Front and Collective Security, supporting the indefensible imperialistic interests of European nations and deliberately trying to deceive the American people; (c) their criminal slandering and persecution of their opponents, who have remained faithful to the true traditions of radicalism and liberalism.

More important than the fear of the Communists dominating the Negroes on work relief (especially through the talents of their colored members among the Federal writers!) is my concern about the Communists capturing the entire colored group by cleverly controlling such organizations as the so-called National Negro Congress.

Experience since the Emancipation should have taught the various colored leaders that it is a mistake to deliver the colored people over to any one political party. The colored minority has special problems to face and should itself organize its powers for social and political preferments, similar to other American minorities.

It would be bad enough for the colored minority to be owned by any purely American party, as it formerly was by the Republican Party. But it would be disastrous if it were captured by a Communist Party, which, despite its professions to the contrary, is the highly-controlled Propaganda Bureau of the Communist International, which is dominated by the Russian Government.

For in the eventuality of a crisis developing between the United States and Soviet Russia, the colored minority might find itself in a very vulnerable and unenviable position. As a member of this group and also as a radical thinker, I am specially concerned about its future and the danger of its being maneuvered through high-powered propaganda into the morass of Communist opportunism.

German-Americans Warned By Nazis

Told Criticism Would Cause Kin To Suffer

WASHINGTON, Nov. 5. — (AP) — House investigators heard today that some German-Americans had been warned their relatives in Germany "would suffer" if they criticized policies of the Nazi government.

Bernhard Hofmann, of Milwaukee, told the committee investigating un-American activities that friends had informed him frequently of receiving such threats.

One German-American woman told him only last week, he said, that she had been warned anonymously to stop "making remarks about conditoins in Vienna."

The witness, a rosy-cheeked, middle-aged radio salesman, said he was president of the Wisconsin Federation of German-American Societies and of the Milwaukee German-American Federation.

Speaking with a decided German accent, Hofmann said he had received threats—some of them anonymous—because he would not join the German-American Bund. He said the Bund was trying to overthrow the American form of government.

Another witness, James A. Cobb, Washington negro attorney, told the committee that President Mordecai W. Johnson of Howard University here was "advocating communism."

Cobb, a former law professor at Howard, said the school received about $600,000 annually from the governnetn. The witness added that "by his advocacy of communism," Johnson was trying "to destroy the very govern-nent whose largess he is receiving."

Politically-important names in Wisconsin were mentioned in testimony by Leroy Schulz, vice-chairman of the Protective League of Milwaukee.

Schulz said the league was allied with the German-American Bund, and that he had joined it out of curiosity rather than sympathy. He said it was formed to educate people to "buy gentile."

Negro and Radicalism—1938

LABOR LEADER WARNS AGAINST COMMUNISM

Tells of Technique Among Negroes

NEW YORK, Nov. 10—(ANP)—In his column for the Negro Labor News Service last week, Frank Crosswaith, well known labor leader, and Socialist denounced Communist methods in inviting Negroes to join their ranks. He says:

"Recognizing the plight of colored America and casting to the winds every principle worthy of a working class movement, the Communists proceeded to offer us 'self-determination in the Black Belt.' We are sure that every Ku Kluxer and others who deny equality to colored people must have welcomed such an offer. However, the thinking Negroes rightfully rejected this offer. Since then the 'line' of the Communist party has changed so often and so profoundly that it is pretty nigh impossible to recount those changes in one article. Each change, however, has left them more and more exposed as one of the most reactionary and opportunistic movements of modern times."

"Carpetbagger Role"

Mr. Crosswaith warns the working class of Negroes to "beware of the technique of the Communists." He says: "They proclaim loudly as their private property the ideals for which workers everywhere have battled, but in practice their every deed is a repudiation of those ideals. All indications point unerringly to the conviction that among our people today the Communists are attempting to repeat the role of the Carpet-Baggers following the overthrow of slavery.

"The old Carpet-Baggers, because of the general unpreparedness of our people, succeeded in leaving us the Night Riders, the Ku Kluxers and the other evils that today haunt our daily lives in the South and elsewhere. Today, however," he continues, "we are better prepared to recognize as friends or enemies those who advance toward us with outstretched hand and high-sounding phrases."

Of Communism in Russia Crosswaith says, "the firing squad, the concentration camp and other means of torture are the answers to anyone who attempts to exercise a semblance of democracy there."

Albany, Ga. Herald
October 21, 1938

Brookens Assails Communism in Talk At Negro Meeting

It Is Designed to Destroy The Negro's Best Friends, Speaker Asserts.

The Rev. J. S. Brookens, secretary of the American Loyalty League for the Suppression of Communism, assailed Communism Thursday night in Bethel A. M. E. Church during his address.

Brookens told the large audience of Albany Negroes that Communism is "sugar-coated arsenic." It is designed to destroy his two best friends, God and the Southern white man, Brookens said.

"White people will help Negroes who are self-respecting and who are good citizens," the speaker said. "The Communists are going through the land whispering to unsuspecting Negroes that the white man is exploiting the Negro, that he is making money off of us. They whisper, 'Join our party and we will take everything the rich have and divide.' Have they ever divided anything in Russia? No, in Russia a man's soul belongs to the dictator, in Russia there is no God, no Christian church, the very buildings having been torn down or used for theatres, dance halls and grain warehouses.

"In Russia where Communism thrives, everything and everybody is subject to the dictates of Stalin, the dictator, who doesn't allow anyone to call on the name of God.

"These Communists are like termites. They'll get into all kinds of democratic American organi

zations and then start their vicious work and before long they are in control.

"The Georgia Negroes must be on the lookout for these smooth talking demagogues who seek but to tear down the foundations of the world's best government—Americanism."

Dr. J. W. Holley, president of the Georgia Normal and Industrial College, introduced the speaker The Bethel choir sang several selections.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
November 1, 1938

DIES WILL TURN NEXT TO REDS IN SOUTH

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—Chairman Dies said Thursday his committee would turn its attention after next week to reports of Communist activity among Negroes in the South.

"We have received lots of charges concerning attempts of Communist leaders to convert Negroes," Dies said, "and we don't want to close our investigation without giving some attention to that phase. We have evidence of instructions from Moscow to organize Negroes by dividing up the South into districts in which Negroes would predominate. We have the names of a number of Communist organizers assigned to this work."

Lancaster, S. C. News
October 21, 1938

To Probe Negro Communists

Washington, Oct. 20. —Chairman Dies, Democrat of Texas, of the House committee on unAmerican activities, said he planned to appoint a subcommittee to investigate communistic activities among the negroes in the South. The subcommittee would be headed he said, by Representative Starnes, Democrat of Alabama, and would visit Atlanta, Birmingham, and perhaps one other southern city.

Ex-Job Cobb Scores Dr. Mordecai Johnson Before 'Red' Probers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Testifying before the House Committee Investigating un-American Activities here Saturday, former Municipal Court Judge James A. Cobb, and formerly a Howard University trustee, blamed politics for the failure of Secretary Ickes to act on charges of his own investigator that Dr. Mordecai W. Johnson, president of Howard University, publicly praised Russian Communism.

Attorney Cobb read published accounts of Dr. Johnson's speeches, and told the committee how he had pleaded in vain with Mr. Ickes to take action on the ground that Dr. Johnson was "indoctrinating" the future leaders of the race.

According to Judge Cobb, Dr. Johnson told his hearers not to let either words or violent acts in Russia blind them, because the Soviet government is using its wealth and power to emancipate the masses to whom it belongs.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
November 4, 1938

Dies To Next Week Is Set For Start

Has Agent In This Section And Has Received Many Reports, Asserts

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—(AP)—Chairman Dies (D-Tex) said today the House committee investigating un-American activities would turn its attention after next week to reports of Communist activity among negroes in the South.

Dies told reporters a subcommittee headed by himself would hold hearings in a number of southern cities including Atlanta, Birmingham, Asheville, N. C., New Orleans, San Antonio and Dallas.

"We have received lots of charges concerning attempts of Communist leaders to convert negroes," Dies said, "and we don't want to close our investigation without giving some attention to that phase. We have evidence of instructions from Moscow to organize negroes by dividing up the South into districts in which negroes would predominate. We have the names of a number of Communist organizers assigned to this work."

Prober At Work

Dies said a committee investigator had been at work in the South for some time.

At Asheville, the chairman said, the subcommittee would summon William Dudley Pelley, whom he described as the head of the Silver Shirt movement in this country.

"We understand," Dies declared, "that the Silver Shirt movement has grown rapidly in the last year and that in one Pennsylvania district it is so strong as to almost predominate." He declined to say what district.

Dies said the committee had received charges that Communists dominated the relief department of Birmingham and that negroes were being shown partiality over white persons. Other complaints, he added, had come from New Orleans and Atlanta.

The chairman said that he might be accompanied as far as San Antonio by two other members of the committee, Starnes (D-Ala.) and Mosier (D-Ohio). At San Antonio, he added, these two probably would be joined by Representatives Thomas (R-NJ) and the three would continue to the West Coast to conduct hearings there.

Radio Station Censors Lincoln Speech As Too Radical

GARY, Ind., Oct. 21—(ANP)—Some of the statements in the 1863 inaugural address of President Abraham Lincoln are "too radical" to be repeated today, according to officials of WIND, local radio station.

This decision was made when a song written by Earl Robinson, New York composer, came before the officials. It was to have been sung Tuesday night by the chorus of the Paul Robeson branch of the Young Communist League as part of a broadcast featuring Jack Kling, state secretary of the league.

The words of the song, taken directly from Lincoln's speech and set to music by Robinson, were:

"This country with its institutions belongs to the people who inhabit it

"This country with its constitution belongs to those who live in it

"Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing government, they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it.

"Or their revolutionary right to dismember or overthrow it."

The radio officials censored the last statement, claiming Lincoln's statement might be "misunderstood" and pointing out "that speech was made in 1865 and things are different now."

YCL leaders offered to change the objectionable phrase to "or their democratic right to change it," but WIND executives banned this also. The song was broadcast with the last phrase eliminated entirely.

High Point N. C. Enterprise
November 17, 1933

Negroes To Wage Drive Against Spread Communism

Mass Meeting To Be Held Next Monday Night

A drive to combat the growth and spread of Communism among Negroes will be inaugurated in High Point next Monday night, Noveber 21, at a mass meeting to be held at St. Stephen A. M. E. Z. church on Price street.

The drive is being sponsored by the American Loyalty League, an organization backed by Southern capitalists through various chambers of commerce.

Rev. J. F. Dunn, pastor of the church, will preside. Principal speaker will be D. G. Garland, president of the League.

Garland, here yesterday, explained that the league has as its purpose the suppression of Communism among Negroes, "to expose false doctrines of communism and show how detrimental such teachings and doctrine are to Southern Negroes, particularly as communism seeks to break down the spirit or good will and racial co-operation in the South between the two races by falsely denying the truth that the White South is the Southern Negroes' best friend and also denying God and the value of the church."

The American Loyalty League for the suppression of communism is strictly non-political, it was explained.

A special musical program will include jubilee songs from church choir. Special seats will be reserved for white persons. Other meetings will be held.

The white and Negro speakers will be announced later.